

John Beekman House
29-29 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cherry Street
New York, N. Y.

HABS No. NY-452

197

HABS
NY,
31-NEYO,
42-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 4
New York, N. Y.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Wakefield Worcester, District Officer
25 West 44th Street, New York, N. Y.

HABS
NY,
31-NEYO,
42-

JOHN BEEKMAN HOUSE
29 - 29¹/₈ Cherry Street
Borough of Manhattan, New York County, New York

Owner:

Owen D. Healey

Date of Erection:

Circa 1760

Architect:

Unknown

Builder:

John Beekman

Present Condition:

Demolished

Number of Stories:

Three stories, attic and cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone

Floors - wood

Interior walls - Wood studs and plaster

Exterior walls - Brick

Roof - none

Other Existing Records:

None

Additional Data:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Record:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>
1701	Part of land belonging to Richard Sackett. He acquired from the city land from high water mark to low water mark on June 4th.	Water Grant B-2
	The high water mark, at the point where this lot is located, reached within 20 or 30 feet of the south side of the present Cherry Street.	Liber 38 p. 418 N Y Hall of Records
1713	Sackett turned the old road into "Sackett to Street," divided his property into city lots	ditto
1721	and sold all of them between 1713 and 1721.	
1718	This particular lot belonged to William Davis, when William Kelly bought the property to the east.	ditto
1748	Conveyed to Stephen Bayard.	ditto
1750	December. He sold the western half, a 25 ft. frontage, constituting the present 29 and 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cherry Street, to John Beekman.	ditto
1773	John Beekman is recorded as the owner of <u>a house and lot</u> , which indicates that the building existed.	Bancher's Survey F 57 - 1773
1774	John Beekman made a will on August 10th, which was proved August 15th, leaving 1/6 of the property to his wife and 1/6 to each of five sons - John, James, Theophilus, Gerard, and Thomas.	Liber 29 Wills p. 129 and Liber 43 Wille p. 501
1775	A survey prepared for James Beekman records him as the owner on August 8th.	Bancher's Survey
	No. 29 Cherry Street is recorded as being occupied by Captain Bynank, while 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ is occupied by Joshua Delaplaine.	ditto

The owner or occupants of 29 and 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cherry Street are recorded as follows:

	<u>Owner or Occupant:</u>	<u>New Number</u>	<u>Old Number</u>	<u>Assessed valuation</u>
1789	Joseph Mount	29	68	L 330
	Theophilus Beekman	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	66	L 350
1792	Joseph Mount	29	68	L 330
	Theophilus Beekman	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	67	L ?
1795	Joseph Mount	29	30	L 250
	Theophilus Beekman	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	32	L 360
1796 to 1801	No record			

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Record:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>
1801	Joseph Mount conveyed the property, a <u>house and lot</u> , on No. 29 to Justus Thompson.	Liber 59 Conveyances p. 467
1810	January 17. Justus Thompson and his wife, Elizabeth, conveyed the house and lot on No. 29 to Manuela Petersen, wife of Nicholas Petersen.	Liber 85 Conveyances p. 301

Manuela Petersen conveyed No. 29 Cherry Street to Thomas Martin Liber 85
Conveyances p. 303

	<u>Owner or occupant:</u>	<u>New Number:</u>	<u>Old Number:</u>	<u>Assessed valuation:</u>
1810	Thomas Martin	29	30	\$1,000.
(cont'd)	Jacob Frost	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	32	1,000.
1817	Thomas Martin	29	30	1,000.
	Elias Nixon	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	32	1,000.
1820	William Silliman	29	30	2,400.
	Morris Wail	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	32	1,900.
1830	Mrs. Purdy	29		2,000.
	Mrs. Burrige	29 $\frac{1}{2}$		1,800.
1840	Eliza Purdy	29		2,000.
	Miss Atkinaon	29 $\frac{1}{2}$		1,800.
1850	Estate of Thomas Martin	29		
	" " " "	29 $\frac{1}{2}$		
1860	" " " "	29		2,000.
	" " " "	29 $\frac{1}{2}$		2,000.

1866 June 28. The heirs of Thomas Martinez (Martin) conveyed the property to Frederick E. Gilbert Liber 962
Conveyances p. 546

1867 February 1. Frederick E. Gilbert conveyed the property to Owen Healey. Liber 999
Conveyances p. 346

	<u>Owner or occupant:</u>	<u>New Number:</u>	<u>Old Number:</u>	<u>Assessed valuation:</u>
1880	Estate of Thomas Martin	29		2,000.
	" " " "	29 $\frac{1}{2}$		2,200.
1890	Owen Healey	29		2,500.
		29 $\frac{1}{2}$		2,500.
1900	" "	29		2,500.
	" "	29 $\frac{1}{2}$		2,500.
1910	" "	29		5,500.
	" "	29 $\frac{1}{2}$		5,500.
1920	" "	29		5,000.
	" "	29 $\frac{1}{2}$		5,000.
1929	" "	29		5,000.
	" "	29 $\frac{1}{2}$		5,000.

" June 15. Owen Healey conveyed the property at 29 and 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cherry Street to Frank Del Corvo Liber 3704
Conveyances p. 440

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Record:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>
1933 May 22nd.	Frank Del Corvo and Palmina, his wife, conveyed the property to the Frank Del Corvo Holding Company.	Liber 3856 Conveyances p. 356
1935 December 16.	The Frank Del Corvo Holding Company conveyed the property to Owen D. Healey.	Liber 3912 Conveyances p. 390
1937	Demolished.	

Nixon E. Paulk (Author)

Approved: _____
Wakefield Worcester
Wakefield Worcester, District Officer

As noted in the foregoing chronology John Beekman bought this property in 1750 and no further record is found until he is listed as the owner of a house in 1773 and it is assumed that the house was erected some time in between these dates.

It is altogether unique as we have been unable to find anything like it except with respect to the gambrel roof which was generally used. This house is not the fore-runner of any plan we can find in New York today, but is probably what was to be found frequently in the very small and very early Dutch houses. The very early Dutch houses were not built one against another but some space was left at the sides. In that case this plan could have been entered from the side into the stair hall. It may be noted that only the rear rooms are served with a chimney.

While the house was in dreadful condition when we found it, enough remained, we believe, to justify what is conjectural in our measured drawings. The front and rear walls were laid with Dutch brick, very light in color, and running about 1-3/8" x 3-1/2" x 7" laid in "English Croes" or "Dutch" bond. The side walls and chimney were laid in red brick running a scant 2" x 4" x 8-1/2". The outside of the south wall was so irregular that it was undoubtedly laid from the inside, that is to say, another building was standing on the adjacent lot when this was built. The remaining first story of the building now in the adjoining lot is of timber construction brick-filled.

The Beekman House is remarkably Dutch in character. The fenestration, the header course over the openings, and the brick and the bond are all unquestionably the result of Dutch influence. The window frames are like those of the Dutch houses of the Hudson Valley. Hinge pintles were

found in one door frame indicating that the door was divided horizontally and, therefore, was a "Dutch" door. The stairway is worth noting for the extremely simple way in which the newels are joined (see sheet No. 5) and the moulding of the hand rail. When surveyed the boards between the hand rail and the steps ran from newel to newel (as shown on sheet No. 5) previously, however, there had been square balusters as a few still remain and holes were found in all treads where they had previously been joined as shown on sheet No. 8. The lintel over the door on No. 29 also shown on sheet No. 5 was salvaged, we believe, from some other and quite different house. The fourth story had been added but when this was taken down the line of the old gambrel roof was very clearly shown against the adjoining building.

The panelling shown on sheet No. 6 was salvaged about two years ago and sold to the Museum of the City of New York where it was altered considerably and is used as a background in one of the alcoves.

The building was given some publicity this year and aroused a great deal of interest. The National Park Service made an effort to have it restored and preserved. They were unable, however, to find any one to finance the undertaking and take the responsibility for future maintenance. The building has since been demolished.

Wakefield Worcester
Wakefield Worcester, District Officer

June 23, 1937

WV 7/28/37